



# higher institute of villainous education

## MARK WALDEN

Published by Bloomsbury in paperback, £6.99 each

*'Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to your new home. Your lives as you once knew them are over. You have been selected, all of you, the worst, the most cunning, the most mischievous minds from around the world ... selected to become part of an institution like no other.'*

Welcome to H.I.V.E., the school where villains rule. Here, eligible students are trained in the ways of wickedness in the hope that they will become super-villains. The school's motto is *'It takes the best to create the worst'* ... but one of the new students is about to become their worst nightmare!

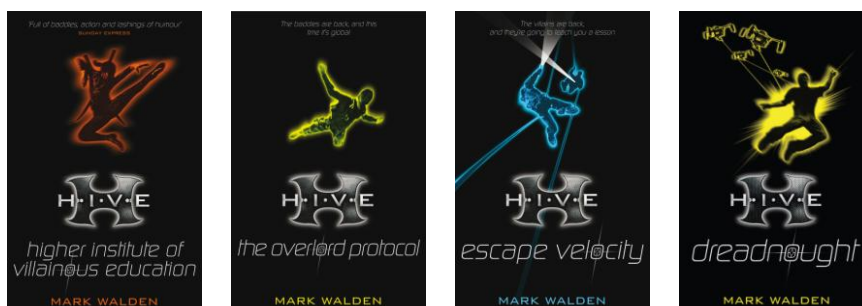
Otto Malpense has been drugged, taken to a secret island and is now expected to spend the next six years of his young life training to be a super-villain. Otto is no stranger to a little villainy, in fact he's got a natural talent for it, but he doesn't appreciate being forced to spend his adolescence taking classes to prove it. Along with Wing Fanchu, another new recruit, Otto sets out to give the Higher Institute of Villainous Education a taste of its own medicine.

Packed full of humour, action and with a knowing nod to cinematic baddies, **H.I.V.E.** subverts the traditional school-based novel by setting it somewhere that the pupils are encouraged to misbehave. With a filmic text that rolls from one action sequence to the next, all four **H.I.V.E.** novels have bags of boy appeal, enough hi-tech gadgets to make James Bond jealous and a globally dominating sense of fun. Not since Hogwarts has there been a school that children will so actively want to attend!

The **H.I.V.E.** books are already proving to be hugely popular. The first book was winner of its category in the Richard & Judy Children's Book Club and one of the most popular choices in the 2008 Booked Up scheme. In 2009 **Mark Walden** wrote a **H.I.V.E.** story for World Book Day and Paramount have bought the option to take this very unique school from page to screen.

**Mark Walden** spent ten years working as a video games designer and producer. Whilst working in the industry Mark helped to create all sorts of different games. The games required more and more people to create, sometimes Mark headed teams that included over one hundred people working on one game for two years, and Mark became interested in exploring other creative outlets. Writing had always been a hobby for him but it was only when the idea for **H.I.V.E.** came to Mark that he really dedicated himself to the world of villainy!

**THERE ARE NOW FOUR TITLES IN THE H.I.V.E. SERIES. DREADNOUGHT IS PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2009**



**MARK WALDEN IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW**

For more information or to arrange an interview contact **IAN LAMB** on 020 7494 6340 or email [ian.lamb@bloomsbury.com](mailto:ian.lamb@bloomsbury.com)